

MDL 1850

JUDICIAL PANEL ON
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

MAR 30 2007

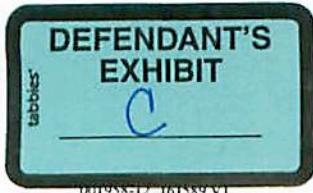
FILED
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ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATIONIN RE MENU FOODS POISONED PET
FOOD LITIGATION

No. MDL DOCKET NO.

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR TRANSFER AND CONSOLIDATION OF
RELATED ACTIONS TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407

PLEADING NO. 3

Plaintiffs Tom Whaley, Stacey Heller, Toinette Robinson, David Rapp, Cecily and Terrence Mitchell, Suzanne E. Johnson, Craig R. Klemann, Audrey Cornelius, Barbara Smith, Michele Suggett and Don James ("Plaintiffs"), respectfully move the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation for an Order, under 28 U.S.C. § 1407, that (i) transfers eight putative class actions, currently pending in the Western District of Arkansas, Southern District of Florida, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern District of Tennessee, District of New Jersey, District of Connecticut, Central District of California, as well as any cases that may subsequently be filed asserting similar or related claims, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington; and (ii) consolidates these proceedings with the five other similar actions that are currently pending in the Western District of Washington, *Tom Whaley v. Menu Foods, et al.*, No. C07-0411M; *Stacey Heller, et al. v. Menu Foods*, No. C07-0453JJC; *Suzanne E. Johnson, et al. v. Menu Foods*, No. C07-0455JCC; *Audrey Cornelius, et al. v. Menu Foods*, No. C07-0454MR;



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and *Michele Suggett, et al. v. Menu Foods, et al.*, No. C07-0457RSM, before the Honorable Ricardo Martinez. In support of their Motion for Transfer and Consolidation, Plaintiffs state as follows:

1. The class actions for which transfer and consolidation are proposed arise out of the same conduct and allege virtually identical claims. Each action is brought on behalf of a class of purchasers of dog or cat food produced by Menu Foods and sold under various labels, and alleges that Menu Foods produced tainted pet food that sickened their dogs or cats and caused the death of many of them.
2. The eight actions proposed for transfer, *Sims, et al. v. Menu Foods Income Fund, et al.*, No. 07-5053 (W.D. Ark.); *Scott, et al. v. Menu Foods, et al.*, No. 07-5055 (W.D. Ark.); *Troiano v. Menu Foods, Inc., et al.*, No. 07-60428 CIV-COHN (S.D. Fla.); *Majerczyk v. Menu Foods, Inc.*, No. 07CV1543 (N.D. Ill.); *Holt v. Menu Foods, Inc.*, No. 07-cv-00094 (E.D. Tenn.); *Workman, et al. v. Menu Foods Limited, et al.*, No. 07-cv-1338-NLH-AMD (D.N.J.); *Osborne v. Menu Foods, Inc.*, No. 07CV00469RNC (D. Conn.); and *Sexton v. Menu Foods, Inc., et al.*, No. CV07-01958 GHK (AJWx) (C.D. Cal.), are the only actions on file outside the Western District of Washington of which Plaintiffs are aware.
3. Plaintiffs propose that the *Sims, Scott, Troiano, Majerczyk, Holt, Workman, Osborne* actions and the action pending in the Central District of California be consolidated with the five actions currently pending in the Western District of Washington before Judge Martinez, the lowest numbered of which is *Tom Whaley v. Menu Foods, et al.*, C07-0411M.
4. The centralization of these actions in a single judicial district for consolidated pretrial proceedings will promote the just and efficient conduct of these actions, will serve the convenience of all parties and witnesses and will promote the interest of justice because all actions involve common factual and legal issues, including:
 - a. whether the Defendant's dog and cat food was materially defective, and unfit for use as dog or cat food;

b. whether Defendant breached any contract, implied contract or warranties relating to the sale of the dog and cat food;

c. whether Defendant's dog and cat food caused Plaintiffs' and other Class members' pets to become ill;

d. whether Plaintiffs and other Class members have been damaged, and, if so, what is the proper measure thereof;

e. what is the appropriate form of injunctive, declaratory and other relief.

5. Consolidation of the actions before a single court will conserve judicial resources, reduce litigation costs, prevent potentially inconsistent pretrial rulings, eliminate duplicative discovery and permit the cases to proceed to trial more efficiently.

6. All 13 actions are in the very early stages of litigation; no responsive pleadings have been filed nor has any discovery been conducted.

7. The proposed transfer and consolidation in the Western District of Washington will be for the convenience of parties and witnesses and will promote the just and efficient conduct of these actions because it is expected that plaintiffs' counsel in all actions will take discovery of the same witnesses and documents.

8. The Western District of Washington has the resources and judicial expertise to properly conduct this case.

9. Plaintiffs' motion is based on the accompanying memorandum of law, the filed pleadings and papers, and other materials that may be presented to the Panel before or at the time of any hearing in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Panel order that the *Sims, Scott, Troiano, Majerczyk, Holt, Workman, Obsborne* and *Sexton* actions, as well as any cases that may be subsequently filed asserting related or similar claims, be transferred to the Western District of Washington for consolidated and coordinated pretrial proceedings.

Dated: March 28, 2007

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